

c) supplying process air to the different process steps from beneath the fluidized bed, wherein a process temperature or supply temperature for agglomeration of the product is a function of a decomposition temperature of individual components of the finished product and lies in a range of about 20 to 300°C, and the process air for cooling has a temperature lying in a range of about -20 to +30°C;

d) supplying a binder, water and/or one or more components in a form of solutions, suspensions or melts to the solid starting material in the fluidized bed in the area of the fluidizing space over an entire process range using a spray or injection system, wherein a dry portion in a spray medium comprises 0 to 100%;

e) fluidizing the individual components in the area of the fluidizing space to form a solid mixture comprising granulates of homogenous composition;

f) reducing a flow speed of the process air supplied from below to the fluidizing space in an expansion zone located above the fluidizing space and formed by cross-sectional widenings, such that a pre-separation of particles entrained from the fluidizing space and a return of the pre-separated particles into the fluidizing space occur; and

g) separating process dust with a dedusting mechanism in an integrated filter system adjoining above the expansion zone and returning the process dust to the fluidizing space.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are presently pending in the application.

At the outset, it is noted that the Examiner has indicated in the Office Action Summary that a certified copy of DE 199 04 657 has not been received. However, in the Declaration And Power Of Attorney under the Foreign Priority Applications heading, it is stated that priority is not claimed for this German application. Therefore, no certified copy is needed.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite with respect to various terms in claim 1. Although applicants do not necessarily agree that the claims are indefinite, the Examiner's suggestion with respect to "material" in line 15 has been adopted, and the same amendment has been made in line 12. Also, antecedent basis has been provided for the terms in line 18 by changing "the" to --a--. Finally, the term "solid" in line 16 has been amended to make clear that this refers to the starting material in line 7.